

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1954

Issued by the Government Statistician (Mr. R. J. Little), Perth

1st April, 1954

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POPULATION ESTIMATES

Whole State at 31st December, 1953 -

Males - 326,935

Females - 306,596

Persons - 633,531

Metropolitan Area at 30th June, 1953 -

Persons - 351,000

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

	JANUARY		12 Months Ended DECEMBER	
	1954	1953	1953	1952
Marriages - Number	475	449	5,032	5,389
*Rate per 1000 of Population	8.82	8.60	8.08	8.95
Births - Number	1,267	1,359	15,862	15,413
*Rate per 1000 of Population	23.53	26.02	25.47	25.60
Deaths - Number	447	386	5,072	5,209
*Rate per 1000 of Population	8.30	7.39	8.15	8.65
Infant Number	31	32	378	384
Mortality - *Rate per 1000 Live Births	24.47	23.55	23.77	24.91
PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH -				
Tuberculosis	2	5	45	32
Malignant neoplasms	65	57	730	689
Diabetes mellitus	7	2	45	42
Diseases of blood etc.	6	1	21	28
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	57	42	574	612
Diseases of the heart	122	127	1,562	1,539
Hypertension with heart disease	17	14	163	158
Hypertensive disease without mention of heart	7	4	82	77
Arteriosclerosis	14	9	175	187
Influenza	-	1	25	24
Pneumonia	14	14	190	181
Bronchitis	4	3	49	40
Other respiratory disease	8	3	42	71
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	4	42	38
Gastro-enteritis and colitis	7	3	17	31
Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis	2	1	7	11
Cirrhosis of the liver	-	2	29	23
Nephritis and nephrosis	8	2	76	88
Diseases of the prostate	4	6	48	62
Maternal causes	-	1	7	18
Diseases of early infancy	12	15	221	233
Motor vehicle accidents	10	5	188	191
Other accidents	21	17	207	216
Suicide	8	4	61	82
All other causes	47	44	466	486
Total	447	386	5,072	5,209

* Equivalent Annual Rate.

* Deaths under one year.

LAND SETTLEMENT

Land taken up under conditional alienation during February, 1954 totalled 174,731 acres, an increase of 8,053 acres on the corresponding period last year. Pastoral, special and miscellaneous leases registered amounted to 486,248 acres, an increase of 886,533.

STATE GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	Month of FEBRUARY		Eight months ended FEBRUARY	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Revenue	3,116,651	3,067,125	25,682,357	23,270,711
Revenue per Head of Population	£4. 18. 0	£4. 19. 7	£40. 16. 0	£38. 4. 4
Expenditure	3,279,622	3,139,057	27,836,404	25,134,485
Expenditure per Head of Population	£5. 3. 2	£5. 1.11	£44. 4. 5	£41. 5. 6

SAVINGS BANKS

Depositors' Balances on the 28th February, 1954 amounted to £51,347,486 or £80. 12. 2d. per head of population as against £48,365,061 or £78. 8. 9d. per head as at the 28th February last year.

BANK CLEARANCES

The average weekly clearance for the 4 weeks ended 24th February, 1954 amounted to £13,850,887 compared with £12,978,327 for the corresponding period last year.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Registrations effected at the Office of Land Titles and Deeds		FEBRUARY		8 Months Ended FEBRUARY	
		1954	1953	1954	1953
Transfers	No.	2,040	1,788	15,643	13,221
	£.	3,722,837	2,392,371	22,241,889	15,023,614
Mortgages	No.	1,564	1,368	13,208	9,631
	£.	2,607,570	1,815,534	20,878,919	13,731,846
Discharges of Mortgages	No.	1,074	1,007	8,561	7,040

SALES TAX: SALES OF TAXABLE AND EXEMPT GOODS AND TAX COLLECTED

Period of Receipt of Returns	Taxable Goods		Sales of Exempt Goods	Tax Collected
	Sales in respect of which Tax is Payable (Net)	Sales in respect of which Tax is NOT Payable (Gross)		
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Eight months ended FEBRUARY, 1954	26,421,320	17,366,643	62,735,147	3,860,696
Eight months ended FEBRUARY, 1953	23,275,886	16,457,323	55,099,314	3,555,662
Month of FEBRUARY, 1954	3,115,209	2,029,255	7,148,134	441,291
Month of FEBRUARY, 1953	3,199,689	1,839,424	6,850,467	410,768

COMPANIES REGISTERED

130 Local Companies, with a nominal capital of £11,149,003 and 51 Foreign Companies were registered during the eight months ended February, 1954. Registrations for the corresponding period last year comprised 74 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £4,745,100 and 37 Foreign Companies.

BANKRUPTCY

	Eight months Ended FEBRUARY					
	1954			1953		
	No.	Liabilities	Assets	No.	Liabilities	Assets
		£.	£.		£.	£.
Sequestration Orders	30	105,409	78,444	27	103,829	51,019
Deeds of Assignment (a)	15	66,036	85,573	18	99,374	115,803
Deeds of Arrangement	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) Includes Compositions and Schemes of Arrangement.

TRANSPORT

The operations of the State Government Railways, open for General and Passenger traffic, were as follows:-

	JANUARY		7 Months Ended JANUARY	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
Gross Earnings (a) * £.	958,400	792,700	6,357,300	4,036,800
Working Expenses (a) £.	1,088,198	1,120,483	7,942,850	6,568,454
Train Miles Run No.	606,513	565,370	4,183,983	2,596,312
Motor Bus Miles Run No.	(b) 165,345	(b) 172,191	(c) 1,093,538	(c) 1,159,095
<u>Passenger Journeys -</u>				
Train No.	609,176	489,117	4,725,779	2,857,457
Motor Bus No.	48,161	55,224	353,651	386,260
<u>Tonnage Carried -</u>				
Paying Goods	250,301	250,574	1,726,343	1,196,189
Livestock	9,028	10,906	83,135	83,225
Departmental (Free Freight)	53,256	45,225	436,422	304,645
<u>Total.</u>	312,585	306,605	2,245,900	1,584,059
<u>Net Ton Mileage of -</u>				
Paying Goods	43,111,213	41,306,896	295,271,166	184,479,878
Livestock	1,147,580	1,289,641	11,064,791	10,774,543
Departmental (Free Freight)	6,892,947	6,580,295	61,732,289	42,820,516
<u>Total.</u>	51,171,740	49,176,832	368,068,246	238,074,937

(a) Includes operations of the Railway Road Service.

(b) Four weeks ended 9th January.

(c) Period ended 9th January.

* Figures liable to revision.

- Figures reflect Metal Trade Strike.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

(1) NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED (EXCLUDING COMMONWEALTH-OWNED VEHICLES)

	METROPOLITAN AREA				ENTIRE STATE			
	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1951	4,263	2,088	51	1,886	7,914	5,730	101	3,192
Year 1952	4,088	2,006	74	1,121	8,068	5,471	112	1,939
Year 1953	4,460	1,869	57	746	8,152	5,015	76	1,239
1954 - January	384	126	11	68	669	337	13	108

(2) MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE (EFFECTIVE REGISTRATIONS) /

Date (as at end of Month)	METROPOLITAN AREA				ENTIRE STATE			
	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (including Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1952 - June	37,873	16,368	522	9,952	64,180	50,897	988	16,041
1953 - June	41,231	18,394	537	9,855	69,333	54,639	1,035	15,559
December	44,513	19,429	567	9,817	73,825	55,782	1,071	15,022
1954 - January	44,889	19,556	577	9,798	73,329	54,141	1,022	14,345

/ Excluding Commonwealth-Owned Vehicles which comprised for January, 1954:-
100 Cars; 748 Wagons, Vans, etc.; 7 Buses and 6 Motor Cycles.

TRADE (INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA)

Trade of Western Australia, January 1954 and 1953, and seven months ended January, 1954 and 1953, expressed in terms of Australian Currency:-

	IMPORTS				EXPORTS (Including Ships' Stores)			
	JANUARY		7 Months ended JANUARY		JANUARY		7 Months Ended JANUARY	
	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953
Oversea	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Interstate	3,539	2,621	24,237	17,791	5,949	8,107	45,185	52,837
	6,965	4,967	47,985	38,910	1,078	1,897	12,885	14,384
Total.	10,504	7,588	72,222	56,701	7,027	10,004	58,070	67,221

BUILDING ACTIVITY
(1) NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED

Period	Dwellings				Factories		Other		Total	
	Owner-Built		By Contractors etc. (a)							
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	55	32	1,316	1,221	52	82	145	192	1,568	1,527
Year 1947	165	109	2,245	2,380	37	64	164	327	2,611	2,880
Year 1948	514	346	2,544	3,041	49	160	268	431	3,375	3,978
Year 1949	825	693	2,485	3,476	57	215	317	657	3,684	5,041
Year 1950	1,313	1,365	3,331	4,727	41	263	428	651	5,113	7,006
Year 1951	1,913	2,835	4,137	6,969	40	459	433	986	6,523	11,249
Year 1952	2,883	5,824	4,946	11,201	63	667	604	2,242	8,496	19,934
Year 1953	2,988	7,219	4,839	12,624	84	817	714	3,657	8,625	24,317
1953 -										
March Qr.	706	1,614	935	2,391	17	214	172	657	1,830	4,876
June Qr.	767	1,830	1,229	3,191	15	241	129	597	2,140	5,859
Sept. Qr.	593	1,443	1,370	3,537	25	249	163	1,079	2,151	6,308
Dec. Qr.	922	2,332	1,305	3,505	27	113	250	1,324	2,504	7,274

(a) Comprises Government Day Labour as well as Private Contractor operations, and includes Shop Dwellings, Flats and other Residentials excluded from Table (2) hereunder.

(2) HOUSE CONSTRUCTION
(Including Owner-Built Homes)

Houses Completed - Classified According to Materials of Outer Walls										
Brick, Stone, Concrete, etc.		Wood, or Mainly Wood		Fibro-Cement or mainly Fibro-Cement		Other Material		Total		
No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	
	£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000	
Year 1946	578	640	186	140	373	296	227	172	1,364	1,248
Year 1947	1,114	1,365	257	196	966	862	62	47	2,399	2,470
Year 1948	1,252	1,715	326	249	1,436	1,348	29	22	3,043	3,334
Year 1949	1,449	2,235	228	191	1,571	1,649	42	43	3,290	4,118
Year 1950	1,709	2,882	337	311	2,262	2,572	55	48	4,363	5,813
Year 1951	2,155	4,560	453	525	2,933	4,241	190	218	5,731	9,544
Year 1952	3,006	8,097	745	1,609	3,844	6,678	135	263	7,730	16,647
Year 1953	2,676	8,417	976	2,657	3,966	8,277	24	54	7,642	19,405
1953 -										
March Qr.	660	2,004	139	364	823	1,587	8	14	1,630	3,969
June Qr.	700	2,132	288	787	986	2,044	7	17	1,981	4,980
Sept. Qr.	601	1,894	283	759	1,003	2,173	6	15	1,893	4,841
Dec. Qr.	715	2,387	266	747	1,154	2,473	3	8	2,138	5,615

BUTTER PRODUCTION IN FACTORIES

413,229 lbs. were produced during February, 1954 and 12,088,328 lbs. for the eight months ended February, 1954, as against 393,876 lbs. and 12,682,402 lbs. respectively for the corresponding periods for 1953.

GOLD PRODUCTION

		FEBRUARY		2 Months Ended FEBRUARY	
		1954	1953	1954	1953
Quantity	Fine Ozs.	63,655	59,265	122,344	117,589
Value (Aust. Currency) *	£.	986,118	918,115	1,895,303	1,821,650

* Excludes premium on gold sold for industrial purposes.

Dividends reported by Gold Mining Companies for the two months ended February, 1954 amounted to £75,000. No Dividends were reported for the corresponding period of 1953.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of Each Series: Weighted Average of Six Capitals for 1923/27 = 1000)

	Food and Groceries				All Items of Household Expenditure ("C" Series)			
	DECEMBER QUARTER		Twelve Months Ended DECEMBER		DECEMBER QUARTER		Twelve Months Ended DECEMBER	
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Metropolitan Area	2656	2439	2608	2359	2314	2225	2295	2170
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2777	2647	2738	2556	2374	2324	2361	2262
Northam	2679	2521	2630	2429	2336	2253	2315	2186
Bunbury	2708	2505	2636	2415	2344	2255	2314	2195
Geraldton	2768	2566	2698	2473	2449	2364	2421	2293
Collie	2752	2524	2671	2432	2242	2146	2211	2085

ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

(Excluding Rural and Private Domestic)

Figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician)

Month	1953			1954		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January	127,573	39,805	167,378	133,021	41,620	174,641
February	128,632	40,835	169,517			
March	129,232	41,012	170,244			
April	129,666	41,211	170,877			
May	129,673	41,189	170,862			
June	130,185	41,029	171,214			
July	130,540	41,132	171,672			
August	130,351	41,296	171,647			
September	130,899	41,443	172,342			
October	131,392	41,824	173,216			
November	131,948	42,192	174,140			
December	132,572	42,634	175,206			

INDEX INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (a)

Month	FACTORIES (Base: 1928/29 (19,799 Employees = 100))				
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
January	194	208	214	216	226
February	197	212	216	219	
March	200	215	216	222	
April	200	215	215	223	
May	203	216	214	224	
June	202	215	211	224	
July	204	218	210	224	
August	204	217	214	224	
September	204	216	213	224	
October	206	217	214	225	
November	207	217	214	225	
December	207	215	215	226	

(a) Figures subsequent to June, 1952 are preliminary.

STATE BASIC WAGE

Date of Operation	Metropolitan Area		South-West Land Division		Goldfields and Rest of State	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
27. 7. 53	12. 6. 6	8. 0. 3	12. 6. 0	7. 19. 11	12. 9. 4	8. 2. 1

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - METROPOLITAN AREA

(Generated by W.A. Government Power Stations)

Particulars	FEBRUARY		Eight Months Ended FEBRUARY	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
Units Generated (1000 K.W.H.)	31,856	27,757	257,883	226,904
Units Sent Out (1000 K.W.H.)	28,656	24,793	231,979	200,974

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS IN PRINCIPAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Period	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
	No.	No.	No.	No.
February, 1954	7,304	326	59,716	8,045
February, 1953	6,515	293	96,417	9,051
8 Months ended February, 1954	73,627	4,036	785,983	72,615
8 Months ended February, 1953	60,812	4,764	1,073,910	80,802

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Month	Total Accidents Reported		Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over £10)		Casualty Accidents		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try
1953 -	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	1,100	276	316	102	164	75	6	5	197	129
February	1,072	266	271	108	176	65	8	9	237	87
March	1,110	319	286	125	178	95	5	13	217	138
April	1,117	319	319	136	169	81	12	7	186	117
May	1,242	300	381	130	167	86	13	9	190	116
June	1,273	259	381	128	154	62	9	7	191	75
July	1,281	253	361	115	182	56	9	3	209	74
August	1,168	273	335	109	138	76	7	9	163	118
September	1,153	266	352	125	141	57	12	6	152	70
October	1,325	285	374	133	205	65	8	6	264	90
November	1,205	268	333	124	159	83	4	9	201	112
December	1,314	280	365	128	191	81	6	10	223	108
Total.	14,360	3,364	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	99	93	2,430	1,234

